



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves to grow up in a positive, safe and nurturing environment free from the threats, dangers and harmful effects of child abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** every adult has the ability and responsibility to work to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect cause traumatic psychological, emotional and physical harm to children of all ages, and the prevention of child abuse is critical to young people's healthy development; and

**WHEREAS,** the Blue Ribbon Campaign against child abuse was founded by a grandmother from Virginia whose grandson was killed by his mother's abusive boyfriend, and the Blue Ribbon Campaign has grown to become a nationwide movement celebrating the positive effects of raising children in a non-abusive family environment; and

**WHEREAS,** Blue Ribbon parents, families and communities help discourage child abuse and neglect by promoting the many benefits children receive from love, support and encouragement in Virginia's homes and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important for citizens throughout our Commonwealth to help prevent child abuse and neglect in Virginia's homes and communities, and I encourage Virginians to make our Commonwealth a Blue Ribbon home for all children;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize April 2004 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



*Mark R. Warner*  
Governor

*Anita A. Rinker*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth